

Postal Service: James A. Johnson and Harry Pearce (Co-Chairmen); Richard C. Levin; Norman I. Seabrook; Carolyn L. Gallagher; Robert S. Walker; Joseph R. Wright; Don V. Cogman; and Dionel E. Aviles.

The President declared a major disaster in the Northern Mariana Islands and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Super Typhoon Pongsona beginning on December 8 and continuing.

December 12

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Ricardo Lagos of Chile to discuss the Chile-U.S. free trade agreement that was signed on December 11. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, he traveled to Philadelphia, PA, where he went to Bright Hope Baptist Church to meet with participants in the Amachi Mentoring Program for children of prisoners.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, he dropped by a meeting of the American Legislative Exchange Council at the White House.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Senator Trent Lott to discuss the Senator's December 6 remarks at a 100th birthday celebration for Senator Strom Thurmond.

The President declared a major disaster in North Carolina and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe ice storm on December 4–6.

December 13

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea to discuss South Korea-U.S. relations, the situation in North Korea, and President Bush's regrets concerning the June 13 deaths of two South Korean girls, Shim Mi-Sun and Shin Hyo-Son, as a result of an accident during a U.S. military training exercise in Seoul, South Korea. President Bush then had intelligence and FBI briefings.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Africa on January 10–17, 2003, where he will open the second U.S.–Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum (AGOA Forum) in Mauritius.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: The Congress having adjourned *sine die* on Friday, November 22, no nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released December 7

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Iraqi regime's report to the United Nations Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission

Released December 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Guam

Announcement of nomination for Secretary of the Treasury

Released December 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nomination for Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission

Released December 11

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman, Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton, Council on Environmental Quality Chairman Jim Connaughton, U.S. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth, and Assistant Secretary of the Interior Rebecca Watson on the Healthy Forests Initiative

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Executive order establishing the President's Commission on the U.S. Postal Service

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to the Northern Mariana Islands

Fact sheet: Reducing the Threat of Catastrophic Wildfires and Improving Forest Health

Released December 12

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to North Carolina

Fact sheet: Progress for the President's Compassion Agenda

Announcement of appointment of Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director of the National Economic Council

Released December 13

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Homeland Security Secretary-designate Tom Ridge,

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Julie Gerberding, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony S. Fauci, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs William Winkenwerder, Principal Deputy Secretary of State for Political and Military Affairs Gregory Suchan, and State Department Office of Medical Services Director Cedric Dumont on the President's smallpox vaccination plan

Statement by the Press Secretary: U.S. Reaffirms Support for OAS Secretary General's Efforts in Venezuela and Calls for Early Elections

Statement by the Press Secretary: European Union Enlargement

Statement by the Press Secretary: European Union Enlargement and Turkey

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's upcoming visit to Africa

Fact sheet: Protecting Americans: Smallpox Vaccination Program

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved December 13

S. 2017 / Public Law 107-331
Indian Financing Amendments Act of 2002